



Tuesday, May 01.2007

Lisa Rawlins. Director
Florida Center for health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of general support for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our College of Medicine is committed to improving rural health in our state and therefore pleased to note the Agency's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private and non-profit sectors on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

In addition, distance learning and telemedicine can play central roles in the transformation of health care through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, this state coalition is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care. We also envision the broadband infrastructure to be a facilitator of distance learning, an important part of our college's mission.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely.

Robert G. Brooks, M.D., M.B.A.
Associate Dean for Health Affairs



Officers

Robert A. Routa, Chair
William Colledge, Vice-Chair
Allen Freeland, Secretary
Timothy J. Meenan, Treasurer
Kimberly A. Moore, CEO

April 3, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief
Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Administrative Office

325 John Knox Road Bldg B 100
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 414-6085
Fax (850) 410-2595
www.wfplus.org

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

WORKFORCE *plus* would like to offer its support for the Rural Healthcare Broadband Access.

WORKFORCE *plus*, the workforce development board for Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties, has a well known reputation for being innovative in its approach to program delivery and has always sought the highest quality service providers.

WORKFORCE *plus* supports this effort by providing in-kind dollars of \$75,000.00 that will be primarily made up of staff time allotted to support this endeavor.

In closure we are excited with the opportunity to partner and the impact that this effort will have on our community.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Moore

Kimberly A. Moore, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
WORKFORCE *plus*

KAM:dg

Leon County

2525 S. Monroe Street 3 A
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 922-0023

Wakulla County

3278 Crawfordville Hwy., Unit G
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-0980

Gadsden County

1140 W. Clark St.
Quincy, FL 32351
(850) 875-4040

Programs funded through WORKFORCE *plus* are equal opportunity programs with auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Florida Relay Service 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY/VOIC)



DEPARTMENT OF

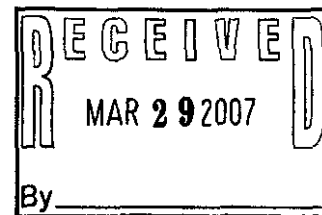
**ELDER
AFFAIRS**

STATE OF FLORIDA

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

March 26, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief
State Center for Health Statistics
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308



Dear Ms. Rawlins:

The purpose of this letter is to express the Department's support of the Agency for Health Care Administration's (ACHA) application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. The department is pleased to partner with the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA), other state agencies and the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians.

E. DOUGLAS BEACH, PH.D.
SECRETARY

We are pleased to support wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium of organizational representatives from: ACHA, Governor Charlie Crist's office, the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Florida Medical Association, Big Bend Rural Health Network, Children's Medical Services and the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, North Florida Medical Centers, Florida Association of Community Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Nemours and Florida LambdaRail.

Our mission is to create an environment that provides choices, promotes independence and enables older Floridians to remain in their communities for a lifetime. This initiative will enhance the information sharing in **rural** communities and support the department in fulfilling its mission.

As the Agency moves forward with this initiative, please contact us as necessary for additional support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "E Douglas Beach".

E. Douglas Beach
Secretary

4040 ESPLANADE WAY
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA, 32399-7000

phone 850.414.2000
fax 850.414.2004
TDD 850.414.2001

<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health

Friday, April 27, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Director
Florida Center for health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

The Florida Office of Rural Health is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's **effort** to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium of representatives from interested public and private organizations.

Telemedicine could very well play a central role in the transformation of health care in rural communities through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, the coalition **is** taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

The Florida Office of Rural Health **is** committed to serving as a key partner in the project. **As** the designated agency for rural health in Florida, our mission **is** to actively foster the provision of health care services in rural areas and serve as a catalyst for improved health services to citizens in rural areas of the state. The coordination of high quality health services using health information technology via the establishment of electronic communication networks has and continues to be a high priority for improving health services to rural communities.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the **information** infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gay".

f Susan Gay, Director



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to:

April 25, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief
Florida Center for Health Information
& Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2-27 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network.

Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network. The proposed network will provide a great benefit to rural citizens and the health care industry.

Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles H. Bronson".

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

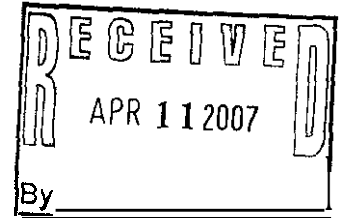
CHB/kcb



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Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$87 Billion for Florida's Economy

2340 Hansen Court
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Ph (850) 942-1822
Fax (850) 942-9902
www.fachc.org



Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.

April 9, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief
Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our association is pleased to be a partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on this funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals and community health centers to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents. This supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage broader provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services, the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Opportunity Florida, Florida Great Northwest, The City of Port St. Joe, WorkForce Plus, Enterprise Florida, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Florida LambdaRail, and Progress Energy.

Telemedicine could very well play a central role in the transformation of health care through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals and other providers, our coalition is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our organization is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome. The 38 members of our association provide primary care services to more than 700,000 patients annually in more than 200 locations. This type of program will benefit our rural centers to link into vital telecommunications and information services

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew R. Behrman".

Andrew R. Behrman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.

Northwest Florida Health Information Organization

Escambia Health Information Network (ESHIN) Project

ESHIN is a project of AccessEscambia Inc.

217 North F Street Suite 320 Pensacola FL 32501

April 20, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief
Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Lisa:

This letter confirms the support of the Northwest Florida Regional Health Information Organization for the Agency's application requesting funding from the Federal Communications Commission for a dedicated broadband network to support healthcare services in Northwest Florida.

Broadband connectivity will allow improved communication among rural hospitals, clinics and physicians in this region and **facilitate** timely and secure exchange of medical data. This project offers opportunities to expand telemedicine and health information exchange throughout Northwest Florida.

The Northwest Florida RHIO is currently implementing a pilot program, known as ESHIN (Escambia Health Information Network), which provides electronic connectivity for three major hospitals, a community health center, a mental health facility, and several faith-based clinics. The ESHIN project enables safety net providers to securely exchange information about indigent patients with chronic illness who require on-going medical care.

Access to a reliable broadband network will allow **us** to involve **more** participants in the Northwest Florida RHIO, and accomplish our strategic goal of connecting providers in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Gulf, and Bay counties. Broadband coverage will enhance rural providers' ability to participate in regional health information exchange and enable statewide activity through the Florida Health Information Network (FHIN).

The Northwest Florida RHIO is pleased to be part of the consortium of state agencies, healthcare providers, and public and private enterprise which has come together to develop this project. We look **forward** to utilizing the enhanced communication capabilities that broadband coverage will bring to this region, and, we appreciate the Agency's leadership in this effort.

Sincerely,



Christine D. Isham
ESHIN Project Director



Wednesday, May 02, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Director
Florida Center for health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16
Tallahassee, FL 32308

~~Dear~~ Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter **as** an expression of support from ElectroNet for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. **Our** organization is **pleased** to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians.

As a technology partner to the Big Bend Regional Healthcare Information Organization I **am** pleased to extend and commit the resources of **my** organization **to** assist in the design and construction of the broadband facilities **to** deliver enhanced services **to rural** stakeholders. I believe this project would provide a significant asset for the targeted communities to improve their viability and better attract new economic opportunities. I am also confident that the model proposed **can** demonstrate a model by which others **can** follow to mitigate the disparity of rural telecommunications **infrastructure**.

ElectroNet would leverage its knowledge and experience gained **over** the years **serving** the urban **healthcare** market to bring the right combination of assets and services to ensure long term success of the project. **We** are committed to **serving as a** key partner in the project with the Agency, provider consortium and the Florida LambdaRail (FLR). The FLR brings a key element to this **project;** the backhaul, our existing strategic relationship with FLR will substantially improve our ability to deliver an unprecedented cost effective network. I believe the experience of both our organizations is a strong addition to this multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort and I **look** forward to a very **successful** collaborative effort that will bring much needed change to rural communities

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Byington".

A. Byington

Chief Executive Officer

Corporate Internet Services and Solutions